

Application No. 10/634,103

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action dated December 14, 2004. Claims 3-5, 11, 14, 15, 17, 22, 25-27 and 31 have been amended and Claims 1, 16 and 24 have been cancelled, without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Claims 33-44 were previously withdrawn. Claims 45-51 are new. Accordingly, Claims 2-15, 17-23, 25-32 and 45-51 are now pending. As set forth more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to and rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that Claim 2 is allowed, and that Claims 19-21, 23, 29, 30 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the amendments entered as part of the Amendment and Response filed on March 14, 2005, Claims 19, 29 and 32 have been amended so that they are in independent form. As a result, Claims 19-21, 23, 29, 30 and 32 no longer depend upon a rejected based claim. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to Claims 19-21, 23, 29, 30 and 32 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-18, 22, 24-28 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0191268 A1 to Seeser et al. ("Seeser") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,615,033 to Nakano et al. ("Nakano"), and Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Seeser in view of being well known. Although Applicants do not agree that each and every element of the rejected claims can be found in the proposed combination of references, the amendments set forth above cancel Claims 1, 16 and 24 and amend the remaining rejected claims so that each now depends from a claim indicated as being allowed or allowable in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

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The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, early notification of same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would expedite the resolution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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